United Nations S/2008/341

Security Council

Distr.: General
27 May 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 23 May 2008 from the President of the Security Council to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 9 May 2008 (S/2008/318) and the accompanying enclosure concerning the processing of letters of credit for the oil-for-food programme have been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The members of the Security Council take note of the proposal, also set out in the letter of 13 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq addressed to me, that the time limit to resolve outstanding issues be extended until 30 June 2008.

Members of the Council also note your recommendation, in the light of the proposal of the Government of Iraq, that the Working Group review the situation in July 2008. However, owing to the considerable amount of time being taken to bring the programme to a satisfactory conclusion, Council members would request the Working Group to reconvene at a convenient time in the month of June 2008, with a view to receiving an updated report from you as soon as possible in July 2008.

The members of the Council affirm that, in the light of your report to be submitted in July 2008, they will, at that time, take the necessary decisions in order to conclude all outstanding issues and end the oil-for-food programme without the possibility of any further extensions.

The members of the Council strongly encourage the Government of Iraq to do its utmost in the meantime, in liaison with the Secretariat of the United Nations, to expedite the processing of the remaining letters of credit.

The members of the Security Council also take note of the possibility of transferring unencumbered funds to the Development Fund for Iraq. While Council members recognize the availability, in principle, of such funds for the transfer to the Development Fund for Iraq, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1483 (2003), they recommend that all unencumbered funds associated with the programme remain in the Iraq escrow account until such time as all outstanding issues are resolved.

(*Signed*) John **Sawers**
President of the Security Council

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